there can be no scope for any outside or third party involvement of any sort.

(c) The issue that remains to be settled in this regard is the vacation by Pakistan of the territory illegally occupied by it in J & K. Government are committed to the Simla Agreement under which all differences with Pakistan are to be resolved bilaterally and peacefully.

Supply of Mirage Fighters to Pakistn by France

1656. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:

SHRI KRISHAN KUMAR BIRLA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that France has agreed to supply a squadron of Mirage Fighters to Pakistan besides a nuclear plant; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government with regard thereto particularly in the context of indo-France relationship?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) Government is aware that some discussions on the possible supply of a uclear power plant and two squadrons of Mirage 2000 aircraft took place during Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's visit to France in January 1992, however, no agreement has been concluded so far.

(b) Government is keeping a watch on developments in this regard, and will take appropriate steps to ensure India's security. Our concerns about any arms sales to Pakistan disproportionate to Pakistan's legitimate defence needs are known to the French Government.

Difficulties being faced by Indian students in Russia

1657. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that about 4000 Indian students studying in Russia are in difficulties inspite of cooperative attitude on the part of Russian Govvernment to help those students; and

(b) whether the Government of India have taken up the issue with the Russian Government to safeguard the interest of the Indian Students who are studying there?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) Yes, Sir. The difficulties are being faced by Indian students in Russia as a result of the radical economic and political restructuring that has taken place in the former USSR.

(b) Yes, Sir. The matter has been taken up with the Government of the Russian Federation both by the Embassy of India in Moscow as also by Foreign Secretary during his visit in January, 1992.

U.S. Conditions for permanent seat to India in Security Council

1658. SHRI SURESH KALMADI:

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have requested for a permanent seat in the Security Council;

(b) whether it is also a fact that United States policy-planners propose to link the above request with India's signing the nuclear non-proliferation treaty; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Goernment thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

Relations with Kuwait

1659. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item captioned "Delay in cementing ties with Kuwait costs India dear" in Financial Express dated 17th February, 1992.

(b) if so, what steps are being taken for smoother relations with Kuwait;

(c) what was the result of the talks recently held in Kuwait at ministerial level;

(d) wheher any break through has been achieved in increasing workers participation in Kuwait; and

(e) the number of Indians in Kuwait as on 31st January, 1992?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) During the recent visit to Kuwait by the External Affairs Minister on February 15 and 16, 1992, both sides agreed to strengthen and deepen their bilateral relations. They signed an agreement to form a Joint Commission at a Ministerial level, send a high level delegation to India for trade, commerce, investment, defence etc. The two sides also agreed to facilitate the recruitment of workers from India.

(e) the number of Indians in Kuwait as on 31st January, 1992 is estimated to be 75,000.

Omission of Jammu and Kashmir as integral part of India by Foreign Airlines in their maps

1660. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most European Airlines are not showing Jammu and Kashmir as part of India in their maps;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what steps Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b) Most European Airlines depict only general physical featuers and not precise political boundaries in their maks?

(c) Whenever maps in foreign publications which incorrectly depict India's external boundaries come to Government's notice, the matter is taken up with the publisher and/or the concerned Government.

Supply of Passports

1661. SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some move to accept the passport fee either in cash or in bank draft in future is under consideration;

(b) if so, the details thereof with objectives behind this;

(c) whether some move to authorise recognised travel agents to attest photographs and other supporting documents of applicants seeking passports is also under Government's consideration;

(d) if so, the details thereof with objectives behind this;

(e) whether Government also propose to take some steps to ensure that passports are issued to people within stipulated time schedule of